Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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RHODESIA SHOWS INTEREST IN TOBACCO PRICE SUPPORTS

Interest has recently been shown in the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland in the use of price supports to uphold the income level of tobacco farmers. This was precipitated by the sharp reduction in prices received for Rhodesian flue-cured on the 1956 auction market. Average prices dropped to 38.4 U. S. cents per pound from 47.1 U. S. cents in 1955. This represents a low return on the capital and labor invested in tobacco farming operations and has led to doubts of the wisdom of remaining in such an uncertain enterprise.

Price supports would be at variance with long-established thinking in the Rhodesian tobacco industry although other major agricultural commodities do have minimum price guarantees. In the case of tobacco, however, price supports would remove some of the price flexibility from Rhodesia's principal agricultural export commodity.

RETURN OF PERUVIAN TOBACCO MONOPOLY TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY

Action appears imminent to implement the Peruvian Government's decree of June 17, 1955 ordering the liquidation of the Tobacco Monopoly. This decree has not been put into effect to date because of the need for specific legislation governing dissolution of the monopoly and regulation of the private industry to be established. A commission has been formed to draft the necessary regulations and is due to report by the end of January 1957. It seems evident that the government soon intends to make a final disposition of this long-delayed matter.

ARGENTINA INCREASES CIGARETTE PRICES

The Argentine Government increased the retail price of all cigarettes, effective December 17, 1956. Each cigarette was increased in price by one centavo, or slightly more than 1 U. S. cent per pack of 20.

Percentagewise, the greatest increase was on the lower priced brands. Cigarettes that had sold for 3.9 U. S. cents per pack of 20 rose to 5.0 U. S. cents, an increase of 22 percent. More expensive brands increased from 33.6 U. S. cents to 34.7 U. S. cents per pack of 20, only 3 percent.

Cigarette prices were raised to compensate manufacturers for higher labor and tobacco costs. However, 40 percent of the price increase was allotted for taxes with the industry receiving 60 percent.

Increased prices of cigars in recent years induced some smokers to shift to cigarettes. There is some speculation within the tobacco industry that this latest price rise may lower cigarette sales.

PANAMA ENLARGES MARKING REQUIREMENTS ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Effective January 1, 1957, all tobacco products manufactured in Panama with the same names, trade marks, or other features of imported brands must show prominently the word "Panama". Previously, only imported tobacco products were subject to this requirement.

NEW CIGARETTE FACTORY BUILT IN BURMA

The new Burma Tobacco Company reportedly will shortly receive a shipment of Virginia (flue-cured) tobacco and cigarette machinery through a British firm. The factory will commence operation in the early part of 1957. The new firm plans to produce high quality cigarettes similar to popular British brands which have disappeared from the local market.

KOREA INCREASES RETAIL PRICES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS

Retail prices of cigarettes and smoking tobacco in the Republic of Korea were increased 40 percent, effective January 1, 1957. Prices of tobacco products, in addition to other goods and services, were raised as a means of obtaining additional revenue.

NORTHERN HEMISPHERE CITRUS PRODUCTION SLIGHTLY BELOW LAST YEAR

Northern Hemisphere citrus production for 1956 was slightly below last year despite increases in North American orange crops.

Oranges--Orange crops in North America in 1956 were about 2.8 million boxes above 1955 production with the greatest increases in Mexico and the United States.

In the Mediterranean area the effect of the freezes of last February showed up in a sharp reduction in the Spanish crop and a slight loss in Italy. As a result the overall Mediterranean area was about 8 million boxes below last year, although still about 25 million boxes above the 1945-49 average.

Grapefruit--Led by a 2 million box reduction in the United States, Northern Hemisphere grapefruit crops were somewhat lower than 1955 levels.

With the exception of Israel and North Africa all major producing areas had crops about the same or slightly lower than 1955.

Lemons.--Lemon crops were slightly above 1955 in the Northern Hemisphere with the United States reporting a one million box increase and the Mediterranean area up almost 2 million boxes.

The Mediterranean increase was largely a result of the Italian jump of about 1.8 million boxes which more than offsets Spanish freeze losses.

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-56 1/

Area	ORANGES, INCLUDING TANGERINES					
	Average		1953	1954	1955 2/	1956 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	---- 1,000 boxes ----					
North America						
Mexico........	4,761	11,296	17,545	18,838	17,637	18,897
United States						
Continental..	67,034	109,997	130,870	135,725	137,415	138,915
Puerto Rico..	807	847	783	800	800	700
Cuba..........	1,050	1,200	1,900	1,650	1,900	1,800
Dom. Republic.	401	487	459	602	525	500
Jamaica.......	435	727	660	450	540	789
Trinidad and Tobago.......	55	115	110	275	106	125
Total.....	74,543	124,669	152,327	158,340	158,923	161,726
Mediterranean Area						
Greece........	1,470	1,870	4,190	4,771	4,485	4,775
Italy.........	11,701	12,239	21,636	20,944	24,452	21,574
Spain.........	24,167	23,811	44,124	37,793	24,723	13,920
Cyprus........	441	479	986	807	844	788
Iran..........	504	1,616	1,417	1,102	1,260	1,417
Lebanon.......	3/ 1,093	1,269	2,214	2,142	2,394	2,457
Israel........	4/ 8,652	8,300	9,549	7,820	9,265	5/ 9,400
Syria.........	6/	78	71	77	68	82
Turkey........	1,119	1,256	2,830	3,584	4,220	4,642
Algeria.......	3,168	4,973	10,284	10,484	11,653	13,000
Egypt.........	6,373	6,686	9,398	9,300	10,304	10,613
French Morocco	927	3,124	5,442	6,280	7,000	10,000
Tunisia.......	239	631	1,411	1,055	1,433	1,300
Total.....	59,854	66,332	113,552	106,159	102,101	93,968
Far East						
Japan.........	15,895	8,396	13,205	21,632	18,097	23,378
Taiwan........	897	963	913	881	1,039	1,134
Total.....	16,792	9,359	14,118	22,513	19,136	24,512
Total Northern Hemisphere	151,189	200,360	279,997	287,012	280,160	280,206

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-56 1/

Area	GRAPEFRUIT					
	Average		1953	1954	1955 2/	1956 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 boxes					
North America						
United States						
Continental	31,787	53,326	48,370	42,190	45,280	43,200
Puerto Rico	448	500	525	500	450	450
Cuba	375	138	240	190	200	190
Jamaica	213	336	439	425	490	600
Trinidad and Tobago	174	390	396	660	467	300
Br. Honduras	7/	7/	200	315	265	135
Total	32,997	54,690	50,170	44,280	47,152	44,875
Mediterranean Area						
Cyprus	44	121	204	229	252	200
Israel	4/ 1,445	892	1,539	1,530	1,430	1,500
Algeria	9	26	85	85	100	150
French Morocco	10	46	193	91	140	150
Total	1,508	1,085	2,021	1,935	1,922	2,000
Total Northern Hemisphere	34,505	55,775	52,191	46,215	49,074	46,875

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1953-56 1/

Area	Average 1935-39	Average 1945-49	1953	1954	1955 2/	1956 2/
	LEMONS					
			1,000 boxes			
North America						
United States	9,552	12,498	16,130	14,000	12,600	13,600
Mediterranean Area						
Greece	446	633	1,209	1,207	1,334	1,366
Italy	9,637	7,517	9,038	9,222	8,954	10,733
Spain	1,445	1,108	1,416	1,015	638	290
Cyprus	52	72	167	153	173	160
Lebanon	464	476	450	435	490	525
Israel	4/ 88	288	295	380	365	500
Turkey	74	260	470	657	943	1,160
Algeria	102	131	290	290	320	380
Egypt	81	112	131	118	120	123
French Morocco	18	61	133	183	200	220
Tunisia	50	154	273	261	281	270
Total	12,457	10,812	13,872	13,921	13,818	15,727
Total Northern Hemisphere	22,009	23,310	30,002	27,921	26,418	29,327
	LIMES (ACID)					
Mexico	652	1,682	2,142	2,228	2,260	2,205
United States	63	200	370	380	400	400
Egypt	1,194	950	882	869	938	966
WORLD TOTAL 8/	2,250	3,380	4,000	4,500	4,500	4,400

1/ Northern Hemisphere: Harvest begins in November of the year shown. Production in foreign countries converted to boxes of the following weights: Oranges 70 pounds; grapefruit and limes 80 pounds; lemons 76 pounds.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Includes Syria.
4/ Produced in Palestine.
5/ Includes 500,000 boxes produced in Gaza Strip.
6/ Included in Lebanon.
7/ Not available.
8/ Includes small quantities in other countries not separately reported.

NEW ZEALAND FRUIT CROPS LIGHTER THAN LAST SEASON

1956-57 fruit crops in New Zealand are below 1955-56 levels, as a result of unfavorable weather conditions and high incidence of disease in some areas. Most crops, however, are generally above the six-year average.

Rust is more in evidence this year in apples and pears and both of these crops are reduced. The apple crop is estimated to be about 500,000 bushels below last year's 3,600,000 bushels. Pears, an exception to the rule, are expected to be below average and may be as much as 25 percent below the 1955-56 crop of 602,000 bushels.

Heavy rainfall in Auckland caused the death of several thousand fruit trees, principally peaches, from waterlogged soil conditions. 1956-57 peach production, it is estimated, will not exceed 585,000 bushels, a decrease of six percent from 1955-56 but still well above average.

Apricots and nectarines are the only crops for which conditions were favorable and both are expected to show a production increase. Apricot crops are expected to reach 184,000 bushels with nectarines totalling 49,000 bushels. These levels represent increases over 1955-56 of 6,000 and 8,000 bushels respectively.

ARGENTINA APPLE AND PEAR PRODUCTION HIGHER

Official crop reports in Argentina will not be available before late January, but trade sources estimate the apple and pear production in the Rio Negro Valley at 9 to 11 million boxes of apples and 2.7 to 3 million boxes of pears. Practically all of the exports originate in this area.

Production prospects in Mendoza are excellent and apple production is estimated to be 5 to 6 million boxes. Most of the fruit is marketed locally, either fresh in bulk or in sacks, or for cider. There are packing facilities for only $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 million boxes.

Growing conditions have been good in the 3 production areas of the Province of Buenos Aires, although production in the Province is small compared to the Rio Negro Valley.

Prices on local markets have been dropping due to the large crops and, as a result, domestic consumption may increase. It is doubtful, however, that the National Railroad will have adequate facilities to transport this large tonnage.

Brazil is the most important foreign market for Argentine fruit. Exports are expected to start late in February, but the present trade agreement between Brazil and Argentina expires March 31. The agreement has been renegotiated annually.

CANNED PLUM PACK IN U.K. INCREASED

United Kingdom pack of canned plums, damson and green gage, in 1956 totaled 25,800 short tons as compared to 22,200 in 1955.

The industry in the U.K. seems to have stabilized recently with a pack just over 22,000 tons after an oversupply situation stemming from the 49,000 ton pack in 1949 was remedied. The small 11,000 ton pack of 1953 permitted the clearance of stored surplus stocks.

RHODESIA INCREASES PRICES OF SLAUGHTER CATTLE

The Government operated Cold Storage Commission in Southern Rhodesia has increased prices of slaughter cattle. It has been authorized to offer prices for cattle received at its works comparable to those received at commercial auction sales.

Due to limited facilities, the Commission has had a system whereby producers must apply to the Commission for a delivery date and state the number to be delivered. Due to increased demand, the price of slaughter cattle has risen above the minimum support prices which the commission has been authorized to offer. The Commission is now seeking cattle to fill the standing orders of its regular customers. The Commission does not export significant quantities of beef at present. If a surplus developes its policy would be to export. The Commission does export a limited quantity of beef to its traditional and profitable market in the Belgian Congo.

For many years the area now covered by the Federation of the Rhodeisa and Nyasaland was a net exporter of meat. However, with the increased consumption after the war, the Federation is now a net importer. In 1955 it exported 11 million pounds of beef and imported 16 million pounds, leaving a net importation of 5 million pounds.

The Commission has acted to regularize exports and provide cold storage facilities for carrying seasonal surplus production over into the period of short supply.

BOLIVIA IMPOSES EXPORT TAXES

On December 17, 1956 Bolivia imposed export taxes on livestock and meat products. This was part of a series of recent actions designed to combat the mounting inflation in Bolivia and a serious meat shortage. Under the new decree exporters will be charged ad valorem taxes as follows: Leather 10 percent, livestock 15 percent, meat 10 percent, wool 15 percent and other animal products 5 percent.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL
PRICES FIRM

Wool auctions were held in Newcastle, Goulburn, Adelaide and Albury during the week ending December 21. Approximately 115,000 bales were sold at the last sales before the new year.

Prices were virtually unchanged from the previous week for all types.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRICES

Wool Prices: Average raw wool costs, clean basis, on Australian auction floors, by quality classification.

(Current prices with comparisons)

Type and Grade	Week Ended		
	12-14-56	12-20-56	Year Ago 12-16-55
	- - - U.S. Dollars Per Pound - - - -		
Combing Wools			
70's Good	1.68	1.68	1.29
Average	1.60	1.59	1.21
64's Good	1.49	1.48	1.12
Average	1.45	1.44	1.10
60's Good	1.33	1.33	1.00
Average	1.28	1.28	.98
58's Good	1.19	1.19	.92
Average	1.13	1.13	.91
56's Good	1.06	1.06	.86
Average	1.03	1.03	.85
50's Good	.95	.94	.80
Average	.92	.91	.79
Carding Wools			
Merino	.92	.92	.77
Comeback	.81	.82	.71
Fine Crossbred	.75	.76	.67
Medium Crossbred	.71	.74	.66

Source: Wool Statistical Service Australian Wool Bureau.

U.K. INCREASES DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF MEAT

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food has announced that domestic production supplies 63 percent of beef and veal, 32 percent of lamb and mutton, and 44 percent of bacon consumed in the United Kingdom in 1955. Except for lamb and mutton, these percentages are substantially above prewar.

In 1955 the U.K. consumed 6,863 million pounds of meat. This is 3 percent above 1954 and 34 percent greater than average prewar levels. Per capita consumption in 1955 topped prewar levels for the first time since the end of the war. The increase of 2 pounds per person is due to large gains in pork consumption which overcame losses in other types. Per capita pork consumption in 1955 was 74 percent greater than in the prewar period.

United Kingdom: Per Capita Consumption of Meat

Item	Average 1934-38	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Beef and Veal (C.W.E.)	54.9	33.7	32.4	36.8	43.9	46.2
Mutton & Lamb (C.W.E.)	25.2	15.4	21.4	24.2	21.6	24.4
Pork (C.W.E.)	10.6	4.6	7.9	12.1	17.8	18.4
Bacon & Ham (Prod.Wt.)	28.1	19.4	22.9	24.9	25.0	25.1
Canned Meat (Prod. Wt.)	3.1	10.1	8.8	6.3	7.6	8.5
Total (C.W.E.)	125.9	88.7	97.0	107.5	120.0	127.9
Variety Meats	7.4	6.7	6.8	6.5	7.8	7.8

DENMARK TAKES PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

Three cases of foot-and-mouth disease last autumn, coupled with the serious outbreaks in Western Germany last year, have caused Denmark to indicate precautionary measures against the disease. The Government vaccine factory has been ordered to produce sufficient vaccine for vaccinating one million animals. All cloven footed animals on the farms where the disease occurred have been slaughtered.

Sweden has taken action to prohibit its small imports of meat from Denmark which do not originate in approved slaughter houses. Sweden is Denmark's second largest market for fresh meat, importing about 14 million pounds of a total annual trade of about 93 million pounds.

DOMINION WOOL PRICES RISE SHARPLY IN 1956

Prices of Dominion wools, both at Dominion auctions and in the United Kingdom, increased substantially in 1956. The average price of merino 64's in December was 27 percent higher than in January and the price of crossbred 50's increased by 8 percent during the same period.

The price rise was particularly pronounced in the last quarter as international tensions and a relatively low level of stocks in major consuming countries stimulated demand. Prices at the close of 1956 were at the highest point since the middle of 1954.

Price of Dominion Wools in 1956

Combing quality	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	Cents per pound - clean c.i.f. cost in the U. K.										
Merino 64's	117	117	116	120	131	138	133	144	140	146	148
Crossbred 50's	88	84	81	85	84	83	84	92	91	95	95

BRAZILIAN PACKERS ASK MORE FAVORABLE EXCHANGE RATE

Packers in Brazil have asked the government to raise their export exchange rate from 67 Cruzieros to the dollar to about 100 to the dollar. Unless this is done, packer representatives state the meat industry will not be able to continue production of canned beef for export.

Packing house costs have risen due to the rise in the price of canner cattle. The requested rate would effect an increase in packing house revenues without raising costs to overseas buyers.

Packers claim that stocks of canned beef have been rising over the past year, while exports have fallen.

NEW ZEALAND BEGAN LAMB EXPORT TRADE 75 YEARS AGO

New Zealand will issue two new postage stamps in February to commemorate the 75th year of shipments of frozen lamb. The clipper "Dunnedin", equipped with refrigeration equipment, delivered the first frozen lamb from New Zealand to England in 1882.

VENEZUELA BABY CHICK IMPORTS TO DECREASE AS HATCHING EGG IMPORTS INCREASE

The Venezuela Ministeries of Development and Agriculture announced the first of January that it plans to reduce baby chick imports steadily for the next 2 years. Import licenses for baby chicks after that time will no longer be issued. Measures have already been taken to reduce import quotas for the first quarter of this year from the usual 1.6 million to 500,000 chicks.

The plan also provides for increasing imports of hatching eggs to encourage a comparatively new Venezuelan hatchery industry. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, February 20, 1956). It is expected that 2 million hatching eggs will enter Venezuela from January-March 1957.

Exports to Venezuela insofar as the United States poultry industry _per se_ is concerned, should not change in the near future since a decrease in chick exports is a gain in hatching egg exports.

TRINIDAD PERMITTING THE IMPORTATION OF POULTRY WITH GIBLETS

It was announced in Trinidad in the latter part of 1956 that import licenses granted in accordance with regulation 18(1)b of the Animals (Importation) Central Regulations will permit the entry of poultry carcasses with the eatable giblets, i.e., heart, liver, and gizzard, cleaned and inserted back in the carcass.

The importation of giblets in bulk is still prohibited.

CANE AND SUGAR PRODUCTION IN THE MAJOR CANE SUGAR PRODUCING COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD

Due to recent interest in the acreage and production of cane for sugar the following tables for the major cane-sugar producing countries have been compiled.

Cane takes from 12 to 18 months to mature varying with the climate and moisture of the different countries. Some countries harvest cane for several years from the same planting. This is called ratoon cutting. The first cutting is always the largest crop. Other countries cut only once from a planting.

CUBA: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Harvested area	Cane production 2/	Centrifugal sugar raw value
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	3,014	2,948	46,916	6,126
1951	3,117	3,096	49,540	6,349
1952	3,521	3,474	65,267	8,046
1953	3,921	2,156	44,984	5,758
1954	3,331	2,310	43,317	5,472
1955	3,066	2,059	38,381	5,066
1956 3/	3,252	2,127	40,827	5,225

1/ Harvesting begins in January.
2/ For centrifugal sugar only.
3/ Preliminary.

BRAZIL: Sugar cane acreage, cane production and centrifugal and non-centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Harvested area	Cane production 2/	Centrifugal sugar raw value	Non-centrifugal sugar tel quel
	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	2,160	37,095	1,737	397
1951	2,273	39,728	1,857	300
1952	2,448	42,259	2,151	300
1953	2,469	43,043	2,328	330
1954	2,550	44,380	2,479	330
1955	N.A.	N.A.	2,464	300
1956 3/	N.A.	N.A.	2,684	300

1/ Harvesting begins in June.
2/ For centrifugal sugar only.
3/ Preliminary
N.A. - Not available.

INDIA: Total sugar cane acreage, cane production and centrifugal and non-centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Cane production 2/	Centrifugal sugar raw value	Non-centrifugal sugar tel quel
	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	4,217	6,290	1,469	3,222
1951	4,792	6,796	1,900	3,630
1952	4,272	5,621	1,686	2,900
1953	3,498	5,000	1,319	2,900
1954	3,932	6,212	2,021	2,790
1955	4,446	6,562	2,340	2,660
1956 3/	N.A.	N.A.	2,475	2,600

1/ Harvesting begins in November.
2/ Total cane in terms of gur; used in making centrifugal sugar, non-centrifugal sugar as well as for direct consumption and seed.
3/ Preliminary.
N.A. - Not available.

AUSTRALIA: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Harvested area	Cane production	Centrifugal sugar raw value
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	397	272	7,898	1,032
1951	403	282	5,966	809
1952	434	280	7,803	1,027
1953	482	340	10,096	1,357
1954	502	374	11,267	1,436
1955	N.A.	380	10,656	1,280
1956 2/	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,280

1/ Harvesting begins in June.
2/ Preliminary
N.A.- Not available.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal and non-centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Harvested area	Crane production 2/	Centrifugal sugar raw value	Non-centrifugal sugar tel quel
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	417	382	8,177	935	40
1951	496	466	9,952	1,077	50
1952	547	517	10,477	1,134	63
1953	575	545	13,038	1,435	60
1954	570	540	12,516	1,372	55
1955	500	469	10,875	1,219	50
1956 3/	470	450	10,586	1,205	55

1/ Harvesting begins in October.
2/ For centrifugal sugar only.
3/ Preliminary.

PUERTO RICO: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Country and year	Total area	Harvested area	Cane production	Centrifugal sugar raw value
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	382	367	10,615	1,299
1951	391	366	10,501	1,238
1952	423	392	12,537	1,372
1953	417	385	10,171	1,182
1954	410	367	10,880	1,204
1955	396	361	9,873	1,166
1956 2/	373	N.A.	10,306	1,151

2/Harvesting begins in January.
2/Preliminary.
N.A. - Not available.

HAWAII: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Harvested area	Cane production	Centrifugal sugar raw value
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	220	109	8,175	961
1951	221	109	8,477	996
1952	222	108	8,694	1,020
1953	222	108	9,004	1,099
1954	22[illegible]	107	9,432	1,077
1955	219	1[illegible]6	9,868	1,140
1956 2/	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	1,100

1/ Harvesting begins in January.
2/ Preliminary.
N.A. - Not available.

MEXICO: Sugar cane acreage, cane production and centrifugal and non-centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Harvested area	Cane production	Centrifugal sugar raw value	Non-centrifugal sugar tel quel
	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	490	10,836	778	162
1951	519	11,828	807	195
1952	550	12,877	911	132
1953	611	14,344	960	165
1954	637	15,435	1,041	132
1955	N.A.	N.A.	870	132
1956 2/	N.A.	N.A.	1,075	132

1/ Harvesting begins in November.
2/ Preliminary.
N.A. - Not available.

TAIWAN: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal and non-centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Harvested area	Cane production	Centrifugal sugar raw value	Non-centrifugal sugar tel quel
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	196	N.A.	3,952	412	8
1951	237	184	4,400	597	12
1952	267	243	9,153	983	21
1953	255	219	8,660	796	13
1954	2/ 189	2/ 173	6,294	832	16
1955	217	200	6,437	875	22
1956 3/	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	900	30

1/ Harvesting begins in November.
2/ For centrifugal sugar only.
3/ Preliminary.
N.A. - Not available.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Harvested area	Cane production	Centrifugal sugar raw value
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	436	217	5,721	686
1951	422	206	4,805	533
1952	450	224	5,723	670
1953	N.A.	224	6,222	725
1954	N.A.	233	7,374	829
1955	N.A.	252	8,006	939
1956 2/	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	875

1/ Harvesting begins in May.
2/ Preliminary.
N.A. - Not available.

ARGENTINA: Total sugar cane acreage, harvested acreage, cane production and centrifugal sugar made for specified years 1/

Year	Total area	Harvested area	Cane production	Centrifugal sugar raw value
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 short tons	1,000 short tons
1950	622	531	8,254	716
1951	687	617	9,277	760
1952	682	634	9,622	654
1953	687	673	10,578	829
1954	713	701	10,628	908
1955	736	708	10,278	687
1956 2/	N.A.	N.A.	11,122	900

1/ Harvesting begins in May.
2/ Preliminary.
N.A. - Not available.

UNITED KINGDOM'S DAIRY PRODUCTS IMPORTS UP

During the first 10 months of 1956, imports of all major products into the United Kingdom were heavier than in the corresponding months of 1955. Butter imports totaled 659.0 million pounds, an increase of 66.0 million pounds over the earlier year. New Zealand supplied 276.0 million pounds, Denmark 177.5 million pounds, and Australia 137.3 million pounds. Imports from Finland increased to 19.4 million pounds from only 2,500 pounds last year.

Cheese imports rose from 244.5 million pounds to 246.5 million pounds. New Zealand was the foremost supplier with 164.8 million pounds. Imports from Australia, Canada and Switzerland dropped below the 1955 level, while those from most other sources increased. The United States shipped 5.3 million pounds as compared to only 22,000 pounds a year ago.

Imports of non-fat dry milk were 74.7 million pounds in January-October, 1956, an increase of 73 percent over comparable 1955. New Zealand accounted for 42.7 million pounds, Australia for 23.5 million pounds. Dry whole milk imports at 14.8 million pounds were up 31 percent, attributed to heavier supplies from the Netherlands, Ireland and Denmark. Imports of condensed milk amounted to 2.5 million pounds and were but slightly heavier than those for January-October 1955.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES OF 1956
CANADIAN DAIRY SITUATION

Based on production data for the first 10 months, the preliminary estimate of 1956 Canadian milk production is reported at 17.3 billion pounds, only 0.1 percent over 1955. This is a revision from a former estimate of 17.6 billion pounds appearing in Foreign Agriculture Circular FD 12-56, "World Milk Production Estimates, 1956." During the January-October 1956 period, production totaled 14,997 million pounds compared to 14,977 million pounds produced during the same period in 1955. However, wet weather during the harvest season resulted in a poor quality hay crop, which may affect 1956 production and drop it below 1955, according to same Canadian estimators.

Early estimates of 1956 factory production of dairy products show cheese and canned milks ahead of 1955 output. Estimated 1956 cheese production is 83.0 million pounds, up 5 percent. Production of condensed whole milk totaled 16.5 million pounds, up 25 percent, and the 300.0 million pounds of evaporated whole milk produced represents a 2 percent rise over the previous year. Dry whole milk output showed a decline of 0.9 million pounds and totaled 20.0 million pounds. The 84.0 million pounds of non-fat dry milk produced was 4 percent under 1955 output.

Factory butter production during 1956 totaled 307 million pounds, 10 million pounds below the amount manufactured in 1955. Despite the decrease, the Price Support Board purchased about 66 million pounds of first-grade butter in 1956 at 58 cents per pound, 3 million pounds more than the purchases last year; at the same time it was selling the 1955 butter to the trade at a price of 56 cents per pound. The purchases of 1956 butter and the unsold stocks of the 1955 butter bring to 91 million pounds the amount of butter held by the Board and available for resale through the winter of 1956-57. Since September 30, the Board has been offering butter at 58 cents per pound.

The Board has sold about 7 million pounds of butter to approved Canadian institutions (See Foreign Crops and Markets, F bruary 7, 1955) at 37 cents per pound. About 2 million pounds of butter was sold to Eastern Germany during January-September 1956 at 37 cents per pound.

Forecasts reported at the Annual Federal-Provincial Agricultural Conference revealed no significant changes for the 1957 Canadian dairy situation. Cow numbers, production, and trade are expected to continue at the 1956 level, while higher producer costs and returns may be reflected in increased consumer prices for fluid milk, cheese, and some concentrated products.

SWEDEN'S TRADE IN BUTTER UP SHARPLY

For the first 10 months of 1956, Swedish exports of butter totaled 30.4 million pounds, - nearly four times the quantity exported for the entire year 1955. Western Germany was again the principal market, taking 11.1 million pounds. Sales to France, Switzerland and North Africa were considerably larger than in calendar 1955. About 3.8 million pounds went to the United Kingdom.

AUSTRALIA'S DAIRY PRODUCTS EXPORTS UP

Australia's exports of all manufactured dairy products in the third quarter of 1956 increased over comparable 1955. Exports of butter at 36.0 million pounds were approximately 50 percent larger. The quantities available for this increased trade were due in large part to a heavy stock carry-over from the previous year's production. The United Kingdom took 87 percent of third quarter exports; Singapore, Ceylon, Hong Kong and other regular outlets in East Asia and the Middle East took most of the remainder.

Shipments of ghee -- 0.6 million pounds -- were up nearly 50 percent, mainly due to substantially increased exports to Singapore, Malaya and Ceylon.

Cheese exports rose about 10 percent to 4.5 million pounds, more than half of which went to the United Kingdom and much of the balance to the Republic of the Philippines, Indonesia, Singapore and India.

Condensed and evaporated milk exports showed a substantial gain when compared with last year. Condensed milk shipments were 11.7 million pounds, 9.2 million pounds in the earlier year, while shipments of evaporated milk rose to 0.5 million pounds from 0.2 million pounds last year. The largest quantities of both types went to Malaya, Singapore and British Borneo.

Dried whole milk exports in third quarter, 1956 at 3.7 million pounds were 30 percent higher. Malaya, India and Singapore remainded the major destinations, while substantially larger shipments were made to Ceylon, Mauritius, Rhodesia and Nyasaland in this period.

The biggest increase was recorded in exports of nonfat dried milk, which at 10.2 million pounds was up 80 percent from the earlier year, due to much larger purchases by the United Kingdom, which took 6.7 million pounds in this quarter.

FRENCH BUTTER OUTLOOK BRIGHTER, IMPORTS DOWN

Because of a lowered output of butter in the second quarter of 1956, the French Government planned to import approximately 13.2 million pounds of butter during August, September and October. The butter would be held in storage for stabilization purposes (See Foreign Crops and Markets, October 8, 1956). Subsequently, an additional amount of approximately 4.4 million pounds was authorized, bringing the total programmed imports to 17.6 million pounds. At the present time, about 15.4 million pounds of this amount has been purchased or authorized for purchase. With stocks of butter on November 1 totaling more than 50 million pounds, about 50 percent above the stocks on hand at the same period in 1955, it appears that the additional 2.2 million pounds programmed will not be imported unless they are more urgently needed than now seems likely. It is also quite unlikely that France will need to repeat the large winter butter import program necessary last year.

At the same time France was implementing the above import program, it also took the opportunity to submit a bid on the German Republic's tender requests of August 30 and November 27, 1956. According to German sources the prices quoted on French unsalted butter to Germany was 49.1 cents per pound, c.i.f.

BUTTER EXPORTS FROM THE NETHERLANDS DOWN, OTHER DAIRY PRODUCTS UP

Exports of butter from the Netherlands in January-September, 1956 at 47.0 million pounds were down 35 percent from comparable 1955, attributed mainly to sharply reduced trade with both West and East Germany. Declines also occurred in sales to Belgium and the United Kingdom, while exports to France showed a marked increase.

Exports of other dairy products were above the 1955 level. Cheese shipments increased from 144.4 million pounds to 148.2 million pounds with about 43 percent going to West Germany.

Export trade in condensed milk amounted to 422.6 million pounds. Thailand, Indonesia, Malaya and the Republic of the Philippines continued to be the most important markets and all took much larger quantities than in January-September, 1955.

Whole milk powder sales of 47.5 million pounds also were heavier than in the previous year with Belgium, Venezuela and the United Kingdom taking much larger quantities. Nonfat dried milk shipments from the Netherlands were 17.6 million pounds in January-September 1956, more than 60 percent of which went to India.

INCREASE IN U. S. SHARE OF WEST GERMANY'S COTTON IMPORTS

Imports of United States cotton into West Germany during the first 3 months (August-October) of the 1956-57 marketing season amounted to 89,000 bales (500 pounds gross) or 29 percent of the total as compared with imports of only 26,000 bales or 9 percent of the total a year earlier. This sharp upward trend in imports of United States cotton reflects the lower prices under the competitive-bid program for exports from CCC (Commodity Credit Corporation) stocks.

Cotton imports from all sources in August-October 1956 were 303,000 bales or 8 percent higher than the 280,000 bales imported in the same months of 1955. Increased imports from Mexico, Peru, and British East Africa were in contrast to reduced quantities from Egypt, the Sudan and Nicaragua. Quantities imported from principal sources in the current period with comparable 1955 figures in parentheses were: United States 89,000 bales (26,000); Mexico 83,000 (71,000); Peru 28,000 (23,000); British East Africa 24,000 (12,000); Brazil 18,000 (19,000); Belgian Congo 14,000 (5,000); Sudan 13,000 (19,000); Turkey 10,000 (14,000); Egypt 6,000 (20,000); and Nicaragua 4,000 (33,000).

Germany's cotton imports in the August-July 1955-56 season amounted to 1,276,000 bales or 5 percent more than imports of 1,211,000 bales in 1954-55. Imports of 90,000 bales from the United States in 1955-56 were the lowest in recent years and were only 7 percent of the total as compared with imports of 381,000 bales or 31 percent in 1954-55. The decline in the United States share of this market was attributed to the unfavorable price relationship with other competitive growths.

Improved mill activity in the first 2 months of the 1956-57 season is evidenced by the 8 percent increase in cotton consumption from 207,000 bales in August-September 1955 to 223,000 bales in the same months of 1956. Consumption of United States cotton, however, accounted for 24 percent in August-September 1955 but only 17 percent in the comparable period of 1956. A sharp rise in consumption of United States cotton is expected in the coming months as a result of the substantial purchases for import made since the first of September 1956.

The principal contracting period in the cotton year is usually from August through November. In August 1956 CCC cotton for export was offered at prices about equal to those of competitive growths. Since September, prices for United States cotton have been slightly lower than those for Mexican and considerably below those for most other competitive growths such as Nicaraguan, Syrian, East African, and Pakistani. Turkish cotton has been comparatively high and Germany has imported only moderate quantities under special barter and processing agreements.

The reopening of the Bremen Cotton Futures Market on October 26, 1956, after a lapse of 17 years, has provided hedging facilities for cotton trading. Activity has been relatively quiet in the first 2 months of operation with turnovers averaging about 750 bales a day. The highest quantity sold on a single day was 1,600 bales.

Stocks of cotton held by German mills on August 1, 1956, were 230,000 bales or only slightly lower than the 240,000 bales held a year earlier. Stocks of United States cotton were down about 50 percent from those of a year ago, amounting to only 31,000 bales on August 1, 1956 but increasing to 43,000 bales by October 1, 1956.

TRANSSHIPMENTS OF MEXICAN COTTON DECLINE IN OCTOBER

Transshipments of Mexican cotton through United States ports in October 1956 amounted to 111,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a decline of 16 percent from transshipments of 132,000 bales in September and 13 percent less than the 128,000 bales transshipped in October 1955. Transshipments for the 3-month period, August-October 1956, amounted to 402,000 bales or 34 percent higher than the 300,000 bales transshipped in the corresponding period a year ago. The unusually heavy volume in August and September accounted for the increase over last year.

Practically all of the increase in August-October 1956 was in transshipments to Japan which amounted to 119,000 bales as compared with only 30,000 bales a year earlier. Moderate increases also were shown for most Western European countries and Australia. Quantities transshipped to these principal destinations in the current period with comparable 1955 figures in parentheses were: West Germany 88,000 bales (87,000); United Kingdom 44,000 (35,000); Belgium 34,000 (31,000); Netherlands 19,000 (36,000); France 19,000 (5,000); Sweden 19,000 (15,000); Italy 16,000 (13,000); Australia 13,000 (9,000); and Switzerland 11,000 (15,000).

INDIA PERMITS FREE EXPORT LICENSING OF COTTON WASTE

The Indian Government has recently issued notice that exports of cotton soft waste, including slivers, roving ends, and bondas may be licensed freely through June 30, 1957. Cotton hard waste may also be licensed freely for export through June 30, 1957, subject to an overall ceiling. Licensing will be stopped as soon as the ceiling is reached.

BOLIVIAN TARIFFS REVISED

The Government of Bolivia has completely revised its system of import duties as part of a new comprehensive economic stabilization program (see Foreign Crops and Markets, December 31, 1956, page 9). Under the new schedule, authorized in Supreme Decree 4539 and dated December 15, 1956, ad valorem duties are charged on the CIF value of the imported goods at rates ranging from zero (i.e., free) to 300 percent, calculated at the rate of exchange established by the Central Bank on the day payment is made. This rate is understood, on the basis of incomplete reports now at hand, to have been about 7,600 bolivianos per U.S. dollar during the last week in December.

The new system replaces a more complicated arrangement involving duties plus surcharges, going up to 3,000 percent and based on a former unrealistic exchange rate of 190 bolivianos per US dollar, on the CIF value of the imports.

Bolivia's imports of essential agricultural commodities will enjoy favorable customs rates, as indicated by the following list: Duty

Commodity	Duty
Cattle	Free
Beef and other meat	"
Lard	"
Powdered and condensed milk	2 percent ad valorem
Edible oils	2 percent
Fresh, Frozen or tinned fish	2 percent
Wheat	6 percent
Wheat Flour	8 percent
Rice	8 percent
Sugar	8 percent
Potatoes and other tubers	10 percent
Raw cotton	2 percent
Wool	2-4 percent
Tobacco	8 percent

Under the new stabilization program, importers are permitted far more freedom. They will be permitted to import and export goods freely, according to their own financial resources. Observers in Bolivia anticipate a considerable increase in importing activity during the next several months.

WORLD CASTOR BEAN PRODUCTION APPROXIMATES 1955 LEVEL

World production of castor beans in 1956 is believed to have been about the same as output in the previous year. The preliminary estimate of the Foreign Agricultural Service places the crop at 523,000 short tons compared with the 1955 revised estimate of 522,000 tons and the 1953 record output of 567,000 tons.

The indicated decline from 1955 in Brazil's crop was offset by slight increases in India and Mexico. Insufficient information is available for the Soviet Union and Manchuria to estimate any material change in recent years.

Roughly 50 to 60 percent of the estimated world production of castor beans originates in Brazil and India. On the basis of reported statistics, Brazil is the major producer. However, for the major reporting states of India the estimates relate only to castor beans planted alone and do not include the considerable acreage interplanted with other crops. Reliable data are not available for this interplanted portion, but on the basis of the quantity of castor oil produced, it is generally believed that total Indian production of castor beans is roughly double the official estimated crop. This volume of production would indicate that India is the leading producer and that Brazil ranks second.

Production of castor beans grown alone in India in 1956 is reported officially at 141,120 tons, only slightly larger than the 1955 crop but roughly one-fifth more than the fairly constant outturn of the 4 previous years (1951-54). The bulk of the Indian castor crop is crushed for oil and a substantial portion of the oil is exported. No significant change in acreage and production of castor beans is forecast for 1957.

Unofficial sources estimate Brazil's 1956 castor bean harvest at 168,200 tons compared with 175,700 tons in 1955. These figures are somewhat lower than official estimates of 185,900 tons in 1956 and 180,775 the previous year. The unofficial estimate of a decline in 1956 was based on reports that the crop in the northeast had been reduced by abnormally dry conditions and in Sao Paulo by smaller plantings and unseasonable rains early in the year. Production in 1957 is expected to increase substantially from last year's level, principally because of higher prices. Rainfall and other climatic conditions will, of course, be important factors in the actual volume of increase.

Brazil's exports of castor beans in recent years have been far below the annual volume of 100,000 to 150,000 tons exported in the prewar period and postwar years through 1950. Oil exports, however, have increased significantly and total bean and oil exports in the years 1953-55 averaged over 100,000 tons bean equivalent basis.

Following a record harvest of 25,675 tons in 1953, castor bean production in the United States dropped to 5,000 tons in 1954, a negligible quantity in 1955 and approximately 2,500 tons in 1956. The virtual elimination of commercial production reflects the discontinuance of the Government's program of guaranteed minimum price to domestic producers in effect during the years 1951 through 1954. Commodity Credit Corporation had small plantings under the 1956 castorbean seed program which provided for the acquisition of breeder and foundation castor bean seed for the national stockpile. The purpose of the program was to increase the availability of improved varieties of foundation seed stocks of high viability for rotation with castorbean seed now in the stockpile. The United States is the world's leading importer and consumer of castor beans and oil.

Mexico's 1956 castor bean crop is estimated at about 7,000 tons, 3 times the size of the 1955 outturn. Production in Oaxaca, the principal producing state, was expected to be small in 1956 due to unfavorable weather during the winter months. Yields from the 5,000 acres in Sinaloa were expected to be good because of the use of hybrid seed and good cultural practices there. Mexico reportedly is planning to expand further its castor production.

Elsewhere in North America castor beans are grown on a relatively small scale. Virtually all of Haiti's small production is marketed in the United States.

The portion of Asia's production other than in India and China, which in prewar years averaged around 27,000 tons, is accounted for largely by Thailand, Iran and Indonesia. Thailand's production is measured largely by exports of 15,000 to 19,000 tons. Iran and Indonesia together produce annually a volume of beans estimated at somewhat less than Thailand's.

Minor castor-producing countries of South America include Ecuador, Argentina, Colombia and Paraguay. A significant share of Ecuador's crop is exported, largely to the United States.

Many countries of Africa produce relatively small quantities of castor beans. Since much of the crop is harvested from wild plants, output is quite responsive to market prices. In South Africa, however, the cultivation of castor as an annual crop has increased appreciably since the introduction of spineless seed varieties suitable for mechanical harvesting. Exports from Uganda, Tanganyika, and Angola, which reached 17,000, 13,000 and 6,000 tons, respectively, in 1953, have dropped sharply in the last 3 years. Expansion of castor production on a commercial scale is being encouraged in the Federation of Rhosesia and Nyasaland. A new company there promoting the revival of interest in castor, reportedly is importing seed of a new hybrid variety from the United States to distribute to farmers who are guaranteed a minimum price for their crops.

CASTOR BEANS: Production in specified countries and the world, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-56

(Short tons)

Continent and country	Average 1935-39	Average 1945-49	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955 1/	1956 1/
NORTH AMERICA									
Mexico	2,770	3,195	2,790	2,850	2,920	2,995	3,300	2,200	6,600
United States 2/	-	-	-	10,425	12,300	25,675	5,400	3/	2,500
Haiti	4/ 700	2,585	5/ 3,640	5/ 5,080	5/ 4,300	5/ 4,225	5/ 2,705	5/ 2,100	6/ 3,000
Estimated total 7/	3,705	6,340	7,055	19,110	20,160	33,635	12,075	6,670	12,870
EUROPE									
Italy	4/ 3,790	2,930	875	700	620	1,215	520	215	-
Yugoslavia	490	4/ 1,740	1,490	2,200	390	1,850	3,000	2,200	1,320
Estimated total	4,280	4,670	2,365	2,900	1,010	3,065	3,520	2,415	1,520
Other Europe, estimated total	2,885	1,955	2,240	3,310	2,240	3,320	2,250	2,250	2,250
All Europe (excl. U.S.S.R.), estimated total 7/	7,165	6,625	4,605	6,210	3,250	6,385	5,770	4,665	3,770
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	117,745	8/ 55,110	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ASIA									
Iran	5/ 180	6,500	8,270	8,270	8,270	8,270	8,270	8,800	8,800
China	4/ 26,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India 9/10/	127,456	133,728	143,360	113,120	118,720	114,240	115,360	138,880	141,120
Indochina	4/ 5,510	4/ 295	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	5/ 6,510	4/ 4,000	4,000	7,000	6,000	7,000	7,000	-	-
Korea 11/	4/ 1,425	4/ 2,215	1,300	1,375	1,375	1,232	1,153	940	-
Pakistan 9/	-	4/ 300	560	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thailand	-	4/ 550	5/ 8,047	5/ 14,127	5/ 19,406	5/ 19,215	5/ 15,881	5/ 14,440	12/ 18,000
Estimated total (excl. U.S.S.R.) 7/	170,780	176,135	194,110	173,050	182,880	179,115	176,825	198,220	204,280

CASTOR BEANS (Cont'd)

SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	8,800	3,265	4,935	2,800	1,100	2,190	5,110	2,160	-
Brazil	147,995	207,180	202,820	195,430	174,240	177,325	187,260	175,700	168,200
Colombia	4/ 785	13/ 5,130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ecuador	4/5/ 29	2,800	7,100	8,365	10,900	5/ 9,430	5/ 10,643	5/ 7,151	12/ 7,000
Paraguay	4/ 3,275	4/ 1,065	1,100	14/ 1,340	14/ 950	14/ 2,730	14/ 885	14/ 367	14/ -
Estimated total 7/	160,885	219,690	220,155	212,135	191,390	195,875	208,100	189,580	182,130
AFRICA									
Belgian Congo 15/	4/ 8	4/ 2,335	2,345	2,800	3,129	1,255	1,670	1,221	-
Tanganyika 5/	16/ 9	1,2[illegible]0	3,698	8,478	13,826	13,164	10,762	8,814	6,500
Uganda 5/	-	-	2,081	5,022	12,964	16,789	8,536	3,749	-
French West Africa 5/	1,194	1,790	709	894	1,202	891	862	890	-
Madagascar	3,440	4,370	3,300	2,755	2,755	3,300	-	-	-
Mozambique 15/	1,750	2,410	15/ 4,863	15/ 2,596	15/ 2,460	15/ 960	15/ 3,920	-	-
Angola	5/ 4,614	5/ 5,063	17/	5/ 5,177	5/ 5,769	15/ 6,280	5/ 3,130	5/ 1,448	-
Union of South Africa	-	-	450	4,000	7,500	11,500	4,230	-	-
Estimated total 7/	13,915	28,100	40,100	50,225	68,425	71,955	54,140	43,140	40,340
Estimated world total 7/	474,195	492,000	531,025	540,730	546,105	566,965	536,910	522,275	523,390

1/ Preliminary. 2/ For the years shown, no commercial production other than for planting purposes except in the years beginning with 1951. 3/ Negligible. 4/ Average of less than 5 years. 5/ Exports of castor beans. 6/ Estimate based on U.S. imports. 7/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries. 8/ 1948 only. 9/ Prior to 1945 figures for India include Pakistan. 10/Estimates for the pure crop only; reliable data for the interplanted crop not available. 11/ Beginning with 1947, figures are for South Korea only. 12/ Estimate. 13/ 1946 only. 14/ Imports into the United States of beans and oil, bean basis. 15/ Exports of beans and oil, bean basis. 16/ 1935 only. 17/ Exports amounted to 14,019 tons but represented a carryover from previous crops rather than a large crop.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS MAINTAIN HIGH LEVEL IN NOVEMBER

United States exports of cotton in November 1956 amounted to 555,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (536,000 running bales), maintaining the high level of the last 3 months when cotton exports have exceeded the half-million-bale mark each month. Exports in October were 621,000 bales and 526,000 bales in September. The current figure is almost 4 times the volume of the 145,000 bales exported in November 1955.

Exports in the 4-month period, August-November 1956, amounted to 2,143,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (2,061,000 running bales), as compared with only 533,000 bales for the corresponding months in 1955. Exports have been particularly heavy to Japan, West Germany, the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Canada, India, and Belgium. Quantities exported to all countries will be published in Foreign Crops and Markets next week.

EXPORTS OF INDIAN LINSEED, COTTONSEED, AND CASTOR OILS FREELY LICENSED THROUGH JUNE

Exports of linseed, cottonseed, and castor oils from India will continue to be licensed freely through June 1957, according to a Government announcement of January 2. The announcement contained no mention of peanut oil. Reports indicate that new licenses for peanut oil exports may not be issued until internal prices descend to a level which the Government considers reasonable.

Exports of decorticated cottonseed cake and deoiled peanut meal will also continue to be freely licensed to all permissible destinations through June 1957. Export quotas of 10,000 tons each were announced for January-June shipment of both undecorticated cottonseed cake and niger seed cake.

PHILIPPINE EXPORTS OF COPRA AND COCONUT OIL REACH ALL-TIME HIGH IN 1956

Philippine exports of copra and coconut oil in 1956 totaled a record high of 1,134,136 long tons, copra equivalent basis. Of this quantity copra exports totaled 964,034 tons, up 18 percent from 1955 and oil exports 107,164 tons, or 45 percent over 1955. In terms of copra, 1956 exports increased 13 percent from the previous record of 1,005,338 tons exported in 1947 and 22 percent from the 931,247 tons exported in 1947 and 22 percent from the 931,247 tons exported in 1955.

Table 1 - PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC: Copra exports by country of destination, annual 1955 and 1956 1/
(Long tons)

Country	1955 2/	1956 2/	Country	1955 2/	1956 2/
America:			Europe:		
U. S. and territories	305,665	292,473	Belgium......	11,850	15,000
Canada..............	5,950	7,907	Denmark......	26,650	25,850
Colombia............	58,877	65,450	France.......	1,000	-
Panama Canal Zone....	200	-	West Germany.	33,040	3/ 72,650
Venezuela...........	23,621	22,065	Italy........	11,900	15,750
			Netherlands..	189,820	249,334
Asia:			Norway.......	10,000	4,500
Iraq................	-	508	Spain........	153	1,395
Israel..............	9,000	8,950	Sweden.......	32,000	44,576
Japan...............	3,921	-	Unspecified..	70,595	119,991
Lebanon.............	5,200	6,300			
			Others.........	14,703	11,335
			Total.....	814,145	964,034

1/ For previous years, see table page 37, Foreign Crops and Markets, December 24, 1956.
2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes 15,575 tons to "Germany and Netherlands."

Source: Philippine trade.

Table 2-PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC: Coconut oil exports by country of destination, annual 1955 and 1956 1/
(Long tons)

Country	1955 2/	1956 2/	Country	1955 2/	1956 2/
America:			Europe: (cont'd)		
United States	69,451	88,485	Western Germany	458	2,905
Cuba	900	949	Unspecified	1,769	10,731
Europe:			Others	128	268
Belgium	-	105			
Netherlands	412	3,721	Total	73,774	107,164
United Kingdom	656	-			

1/ For previous years, see table page 38, Foreign Crops and Markets, December 24, 1956. 2/ Preliminary.

Source: Philippine trade.

Combined exports of copra and coconut oil in December 1956, equivalent in terms of copra to 77,476 tons, reflected a decrease of over one-fourth from a month earlier and a loss of one-fifth from December 1955.

Copra exports during December, totaling 56,147 tons, were the lowest monthly exports of the year. By destination and quantity, they were as follows: United States - 23,603 tons (Pacific Coast - 21,601, Atlantic Coast - 2,002); Canada - 1,693; Belgium - 1,000; Denmark - 1,500; Italy - 3,000; Netherlands - 7,643; Norway - 500; Sweden - 1,200; Europe unspecified - 15,500; Iraq - 508.

Coconut oil exports in December, totaling 13,437 tons, were as follows: United States - 11,185 (Atlantic Coast only); Netherlands - 662; Germany - 396; Europe unspecified - 1,194.

The copra export price continued stable, being quoted in mid-January at $155.00 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast (mid-December $155.00; mid-November $150.00; mid-October $150.00). Local buying prices were reported at 24.50 to 27.00 pesos per 100 kilograms ($124.48 to $137.17 per long ton) resecada in Manila and producing areas.

URUGUAY AUTHORIZES FRESH FRUIT EXPORTS

An authorization to export 200,000 boxes of peaches and 7,500 boxes of plums has been announced by the government of Uruguay.

The exports must be accomplished before April 20, 1957.

URUGUAY AUTHORIZES LEMON IMPORTS

The Government of Urugay, on January 3, authorized the importation of 14,500 boxes of lemons, 2,900 boxes to be purchased by the government subsistence agency and the balance by private firms.

The lemons must be bought and shipped so as to arrive in Uruguay no later than March 20, 1957 and will be allowed entry free of customs duty.

CANADA'S JULY-DECEMBER WHEAT AND FLOUR EXPORTS ESTIMATED AT 157 MILLION BUSHELS

Canadian wheat and flour exports during the 6-month period ending December 31, 1956 are estimated at approximately 157 million bushels compared with 116 million bushels during the corresponding period a year ago. The total for the first half of the 1956-57 season includes official returns for July-October and estimates, based largely on clearances for export, for November and December.

Data indicative of the destinations of Canada's wheat and flour exports this season are available only for the 5 months July through November. In that 5-month period the principal markets were the United Kingdom, West Germany, Japan, Iron Curtain countries (Russia, Czechoslovakia, and Poland), Belgium, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Canada's exports of wheat and flour during stated periods

Destination	July-October 1955			July-October 1956		
	Wheat	Flour	Total	Wheat	Flour	Total
	(Thousands of bushels, grain equivalent)					
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	1,679	264	1,943	1,160	439	1,599
Central America	49	731	780	19	491	510
British West Indies	11	1,662	1,673	8	1,731	1,739
Cuba	228	209	437	1	147	148
Colombia	-	107	107	-	55	55
Venezuela	43	1,516	1,559	28	1,119	1,147
Ecuador	531	-	531	218	-	218
Peru	210	18	228	1,253	10	1,263
Others	2	471	473	1	533	534
Total	2,753	4,978	7,731	2,688	4,525	7,213
Europe:						
Norway	1,123	-	1,123	2,549	-	2,549
United Kingdom	30,079	3,280	33,359	32,768	4,548	37,316
Ireland	935	-	935	1,057	-	1,057
Netherlands	2,050	-	2,050	5,319	4	5,323
Belgium-Luxembourg	5,290	-	5,290	6,641	145	6,786
France	-	-	-	1,471	-	1,471
West Germany	6,158	132	6,290	18,581	-	18,581
Austria	1,151	-	1,151	376	-	376
Czechoslovakia	-	-	-	4,371	-	4,371
Switzerland	433	-	433	4,142	-	4,142
Poland	1,534	-	1,534	2,599	-	2,599
Russia	-	-	-	4,127	-	4,127
Others	1,725	185	1,910	1,864	109	1,973
Total	50,478	3,597	54,075	85,865	4,806	90,671
Asia						
Philippines	-	1,591	1,591	-	2,062	2,062
Hong Kong	121	206	327	175	203	378
Japan	11,675	154	11,829	16,407	421	16,828
Others	405	376	781	158	409	567
Total	12,201	2,327	14,528	16,740	3,095	19,835
Africa						
British West Africa	-	546	546	-	486	486
Union of South Africa	1,678	-	1,678	950	-	950
Others	93	374	467	108	250	358
Total	1,771	920	2,691	1,058	736	1,794
Oceania	-	40	40	-	25	25
World total	67,203	11,862	79,065	106,351	13,187	119,538

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